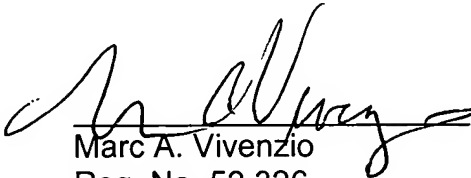


**REMARKS**

By this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have amended the specification to include a cross-reference to related international application number PCT/CA02/01922, pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(2)(i). Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added to the application.

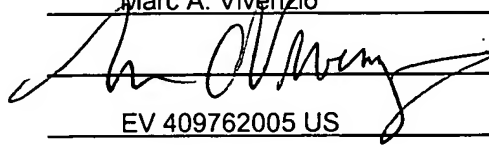
Respectfully Submitted,  
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL" (37 CFR 1.10)**

I hereby certify that this Preliminary Amendment along with any attachments referred to therein, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on **December 12, 2003**.

Marc A. Vivenzio  
  
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